

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE  
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 15-604

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Project Title:** Hardscrabble Mesa dirt tank repair

**Region and Game Management Unit:** Region 6 GMU 22

**Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):**

- Payson Natural Resources Committee

**Was the project presented to the LHPC?**

**YES**[X] **NO**[]

**Has this project been submitted in previous years?** **YES**[] **NO**[X]

**If Yes, was it funded?** **YES**[] **NO**[] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

**Project Type:** dirt tank construction

**Brief Project Summary:**

The project will build 7 new dirt tanks and provide bentonite for two of the tanks. This area holds large amounts of deer and elk and this project will dovetail nicely with two other projects being proposed on the mesa.

**Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit (% benefit per species)** 50% Elk, 25% Whitetail, 25% Mule Deer

**Implementation Schedule** (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:

March 2, 2016

Project End Date:

September 23, 2017

**Environmental Compliance:**

NEPA Completed: **Yes**[X] **No**[] **N/A**[]

Projected Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:  
(Provide Attachment)

**Yes**[X] **No**[] **N/A**[]

Projected Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: **N/A**[]

To be Completed by: Dave Daniels

Projected Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT FUNDING**

**Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:**

**\$52,000**

**Cost Share or Matching Funds:**

**\$23,500**

**Total Project Costs:**

**\$75,500**

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION**

**Applicant** (please print):

Dave Daniels

**Address:**

7200 E University  
Mesa AZ 85207

**E-mail:**

ddaniels@azgfd.gov

**Telephone:** 480-528-8774

**Date:** 8/24/15

**AGFD Contact and Phone No.** (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

**Project has been coordinated with:**

AZGFD, Tonto National Forest, Hardscrabble Allotment Permittee

**NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

Hardscrabble Mesa is in the middle of the most densely populated elk area in unit 22. During fall surveys the AGFD routinely counts between 300-400 elk on the mesa alone. The Hardscrabble Mesa Allotment has recently been acquired by a new permittee who has been working hard to recover the habitat and water resources that had been neglected for several years. This project along with another water project and a juniper push being proposed will go a long way towards providing adequate forage and water for elk, deer and many other game and non-game species for years to come.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

Improve water availability for elk and deer  
Ensure water availability year round

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:**

Use heavy equipment to build 7 new dirt tanks  
Seal two tanks with bentonite.  
The permittee will provide the heavy equipment and most of the labor.

**PROJECT LOCATION**

34.36932, 111.51012 – Hardscrabble tank  
34.35754, 111.49192 – Bear  
34.35564, 111.49899 – Jase  
34.35226, 111.50347 – Turkey  
34.35006, 111.4944 - Cooper  
34.34312, 111.50564 – Daylen  
34.34122, 111.49287 - Brown

**LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):**

(If the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

- The land is managed by the USFS, Tonto National Forest, Payson Ranger District

*IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or  
LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?*  
YES[] NO[] N/A[X]

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION:**

Hardscrabble Mesa located at approximately 5,600 feet. The vegetative community consists primarily of pinyon juniper woodland.

### **ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

#### Special Big Game License Tag Funds

\$42,000 – To be used for fuel and a part time heavy equipment operator.

\$10,000 – To be used for the purchase of bentonite.

#### Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

Hardscrabble Permittee - \$21,000

USFS – 1,500

AGFD- 1,000

### **LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

#### Hardscrabble Allotment Permittee

- Provide bull dozer, front end loader, excavator, backhoe and transportation of equipment to site
- Facilitate fuel purchases and delivery
- Facilitate bentonite purchases and delivery
- Provide project labor

#### Arizona Game and Fish Department

- Provided in-kind contributions in the form of labor for contract administration, project origination, and project coordination/completion.

#### U.S. Forest Service, Tonto National Forest, Pleasant Valley Ranger District

- Provided administrative support in the form of necessary NEPA and archaeological clearances.
- Provide letter of approval for implementation of project.

### **WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?**

YES[] NO[] N/A[X]

### **PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

The project proponent along with the Payson Ranger District will monitor the project

### **PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

The permittee will provide project maintenance.

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:**

The project proponent will be responsible for the completion report

**WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS** (please use the worksheet below):

**TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS** (please use the worksheet below):

**ATTACHMENTS:**

(Please provide cultural clearance documentation from land management agency, e.g., FONSI, Inventory Standards, etc. Also attach any project pictures)

## **ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Hardscrabble Mesa dirt tank repair

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”** N/A
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**  
N/A
- 3) **What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)**  
☐2-4   ☐4-6   ☐6-8   ☐8-10   ☐10-12   ☐12-14   ☐14-16   ☐ >16
- 4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**  
  
YES[ ] (please complete #5 below)   NO[X] (skip #5 below)
- 5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**  
Name of water source:  
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank):  
Ownership of water source:  
Distance in miles from project:
- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts?** YES[ ]   NO[X]
- 7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**
- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**  
Type of access (mark one): ☒2x4 vehicles   ☒4x4 only   ☐foot only\*\*  
  
\*\*If foot access only: Distance in miles: \_\_\_\_\_   Approximate hiking time: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES[ ]   NO[X]  
  
-- Please describe any restrictions to public access:
- 9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**
- 10) **Was a site visit completed?** Yes[X]   No[ ]  
If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.  
Dave Daniels AGFD  
Kelly Bedson USFS



